TRENDS

AS275-2

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 1 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 3.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first nine weeks of 1986 was an estimated 151.7 billion ton-miles, up 2.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 1 totaled 384,595, down 2.8 percent from last year, but 4.5 percent above the preceding holiday week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 3.7 percent in the West, but down 8.5 percent in the East, and 7.0 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings were down by 4,933 cars (4.3 percent) and grain traffic decreased by 2,941 cars (12.1 percent). Nineteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 22 totaled 92,950 trailers and/or containers, 8.2 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first eight weeks of the year was 727,289 trailers and/or containers, up 13.5 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/1/86:

	Loadings in Week ended March 1, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,300	D	2,941	12.1	I	669	3.2
Other farm products	2,930	D	1,157	28.3	I	412	16.4
Metallic ores	13,260	I	107	0.8	I	1,028	8.4
Coal	110,576	D	4,933	4.3	D	2,239	2.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,856	I	808	8.0	I	1,269	13.2
Nonmetallic minerals	10,737	D	1,733	13.9	I	2,546	31.1
Grain mill products	10,662	D	193	1.8	I	190	1.8
Food and kindred products	11,139	D	397	3.4	I	748	7.2
Primary forest products	11,523	D	979	7.8	I	186	1.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,506	I	1,074	14.5	I	1,057	14.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,183	D	1,372	8.8	I	252	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	26,828	I	645	2.5	I	2,706	11.2
Petroleum products	4,519	D	39	0.9	I	351	8.4
Stone, clay and glass products	9,501	D	803	7.8	I	716	8.2
Coke	4,855	D	414	7.9	I	151	3.2
Metals and products	9,735	D	734	7.0	I	1,133	13.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,447	I	834	3.7	I	132	0.6
Waste and scrap materials	9,058	D	807	8.2	I	565	6.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,822	D	1,479	20.3	I	432	8.1
All other carloads	65,036	I	3,464	5.6	I	4,201	6.9
LCL traffic	122	D	55	31.1	D	1	0.8
Total Cars Loaded	384,595	D	11,104	2.8	I	16,504	4.5
Corresponding week of 1985	395,699						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (9 weeks)	3,278,118	3,183,190	I 3.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
8 Weeks ended February 22	134.1	129.5	I 3.5
Week ended March 1	17.6	18.2	D 3.2
9 weeks cumulative	151.7	147.7	I 2.7

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